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(71) *Sökande* *Active Biotech AB, Lund SE*
Applicant (s)

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PATENT- OCH REGISTRERINGSVERKET
SWEDEN

Postadress/Adress
Box 5055
S-102 42 STOCKHOLM

Telefon/Phone
+46 8 782 25 00
Vx 08-782 25 00

Telex
17978
PATOREG S

Telefax
+46 8 666 02 86
08-666 02 86

AWAPATENT AB
Kontor/Handläggare
Malmö/Kristina Walls/BET

Active Biotech AB
Ansökningsnr
Vår referens
SE-21000732

IMMUNOMODULATORY COMPOUNDS

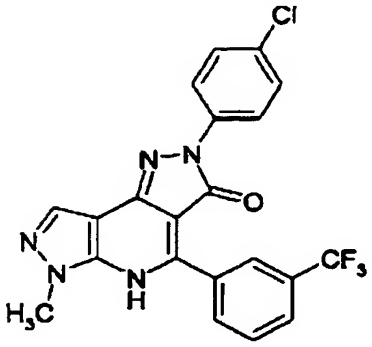
The present invention relates to novel heterocyclic compounds, to methods for their preparation, to compositions containing them, and to methods and use for clinical treatment of medical conditions which may benefit from immunomodulation, including rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, asthma, transplantation, systemic lupus erythematosis and psoriasis. More particularly the present invention relates to novel heterocyclic compounds, which are CD80 antagonists capable of inhibiting the interactions between CD80 and CD28.

Background of the invention

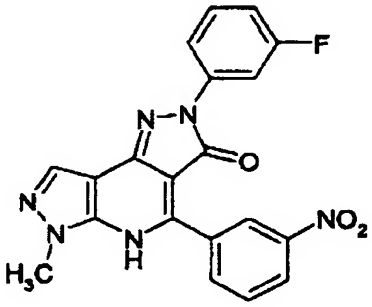
The immune system possesses the ability to control the homeostasis between the activation and inactivation of lymphocytes through various regulatory mechanisms during and after an immune response. Among these are mechanisms that specifically inhibit and/or turn off an immune response. Thus, when an antigen is presented by MHC molecules to the T-cell receptor, the T-cells become properly activated only in the presence of additional co-stimulatory signals. In the absence of accessory signals there is no lymphocyte activation and either a state of functional inactivation termed anergy or tolerance is induced, or the T-cell is specifically deleted by apoptosis. One such co-stimulatory signal involves interaction of CD80 on specialised antigen-presenting cells with CD28 on T-cells, which has been demonstrated to be essential for full T-cell activation. (Lenschow *et al.* (1996) *Annu. Rev. Immunol.*, 14, 233-258)

A paper by Erbe *et al*, in J. Biol. Chem. Vol. 277, No. 9, pp 7363-7368, describes three small molecule ligands which bind to CD80, and inhibit binding of CD80

to CD28 and CTLA4. Two of the disclosed ligands are fused pyrazolones of structures A and B:



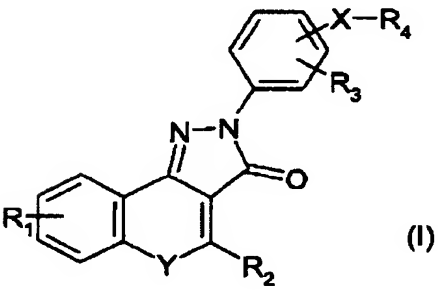
A



B

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention there is provided a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

wherein

R_1 and R_3 independently represent H; F; Cl; Br; $-NO_2$; $-CN$; C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted by F or Cl; or C_1-C_6 alkoxy optionally substituted by F;

R_2 represents H, or optionally substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or optionally substituted phenyl;

Y represents -O-, -S-, N-oxide, or $-N(R_5)-$ wherein R_5 represents H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

X represents a bond or a divalent C_1-C_6 alkylene radical;

R_4 represents $-C(=O)NR_6R_7$, $-NR_7C(=O)R_6$, $-NR_7C(=O)OR_6$, $-NHC(=O)NHR_6$, or $-NHC(=S)NHR_6$ wherein

R_6 represents H, or a radical of formula $-(Alk)_b-Q$ wherein b is 0 or 1, and

Alk is an optionally substituted divalent straight chain or branched C_1-C_{12} alkylene radical which may be interrupted by one or more non-adjacent -O-, -S- or -$N(R_8)$- radicals wherein R_8 represents H or C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_3-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_4 alkynyl, or C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and

Q represents H; $-CF_3$; -OH; -SH; $-NR_8R_8$ wherein each R_8 may be the same or different; an ester group; or an optionally substituted phenyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, C_5-C_7 cycloalkenyl or monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms; and

R_7 represents H or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms.

Compounds of general formula (I) are CD80 antagonists. They inhibit the interaction between CD80 and CD28 and thus the activation of T cells, thereby modulating the immune response.

Accordingly the invention also includes:

(i) a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof for use in the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation.

(ii) the use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation,.

(iii) a method of immunomodulation in mammals, including humans, comprising administration to a mammal in need of such treatment an immunomodulatory effective dose of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof.

(iv) a pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof

together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable excipient or carrier.

Conditions which benefit from immunomodulation include:

Adrenal insufficiency
Allergic angiitis and granulomatosis
Amylodosis
Ankylosing spondylitis
Asthma
Autoimmune Addison's disease
Autoimmune alopecia
Autoimmune chronic active hepatitis
Autoimmune hemolytic anemia
Autoimmune neutropenia
Autoimmune thrombocytopenic purpura
Autoimmune vasculitides
Behçet's disease
Cerebellar degeneration
Chronic active hepatitis
Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy
Dermatitis herpetiformis
Diabetes
Eaton-Lambert myasthenic syndrome
Encephalomyelitis
Epidermolysis bullosa
Erythema nodosa
Gluten-sensitive enteropathy
Goodpasture's syndrome
Graft versus host disease
Guillain-Barre syndrome
Hashimoto's thyroiditis
Hyperthyrodism
Idiopathic hemachromatosis
Idiopathic membranous glomerulonephritis
Minimal change renal disease
Mixed connective tissue disease
Multifocal motor neuropathy

Multiple sclerosis
Myasthenia gravis
Opsoclonus-myoclonus syndrome
Pemphigoid
Pemphigus
Pernicious anemia
Polyarteritis nodosa
Polymyositis/dermatomyositis
Post-infective arthritides
Primary biliary sclerosis
Psoriasis
Reactive arthritides
Reiter's disease
Retinopathy
Rheumatoid arthritis
Sclerosing cholangitis
Sjögren's syndrome
Stiff-man syndrome
Subacute thyroiditis
Systemic lupus erythematosis
Systemic sclerosis (scleroderma)
Temporal arteritis
Thromboangiitis obliterans
Transplantation rejection
Type I and type II autoimmune polyglandular syndrome
Ulcerative colitis
Uveitis
Wegener's granulomatosis

As used herein the term "alkylene" refers to a straight or branched alkyl chain having two unsatisfied valencies, for example $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_2CH_3)CH_2CH_2CH_3$, and $-C(CH_3)_3$.

As used herein the term "heteroaryl" refers to a 5- or 6- membered aromatic ring containing one or more heteroatoms. Illustrative of such groups are thienyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, triazolyl,

thiadiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl.

As used herein the unqualified term "heterocyclyl" or "heterocyclic" includes "heteroaryl" as defined above, and in particular means a 5-7 membered aromatic or non-aromatic heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from S, N and O, including for example, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thienyl, piperidinyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrimidinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, indolyl, morpholinyl, benzofuranyl, pyranyl, isoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, methylenedioxyphenyl, maleimido and succinimido groups.

Unless otherwise specified in the context in which it occurs, the term "substituted" as applied to any moiety herein means substituted with up to four substituents, each of which independently may be (C_1-C_6)alkyl, trifluoromethyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy (including the special case where a ring is substituted on adjacent ring C atoms by methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy), trifluoromethoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, hydroxy, mercapto, amino, fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, nitro, oxo, -COOH, $-SO_2OH$, $-CONH_2$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-COR^A$, $-COOR^A$, $-SO_2OR^A$, $-NHCOR^A$, $-NHSO_2R^A$, $-CONHR^A$, $-SO_2NHR^A$, $-NHR^A$, $-NR^AR^B$, $-CONR^AR^B$ or $-SO_2NR^AR^B$ wherein R^A and R^B are independently a (C_1-C_6)alkyl group. In the case where "substituted" means substituted by benzyl or phenoxy, the phenyl ring thereof may itself be substituted with any of the foregoing, except phenyl or benzyl.

As used herein the unqualified term "carbocyclyl" or "carbocyclic" refers to a 5-8 membered ring whose ring atoms are all carbon.

Some compounds of the invention contain one or more chiral centres because of the presence of asymmetric carbon atoms. The presence of asymmetric carbon atoms gives rise to stereoisomers or diastereoisomers with R or

S stereochemistry at each chiral centre. The invention includes all such stereoisomers and diastereoisomers and mixtures thereof.

Salts of salt forming compounds of the invention include physiologically acceptable acid addition salts for example hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, sulphates, methane sulphonates, p-toluenesulphonates, phosphates, acetates, citrates, succinates, lactates, tartrates, fumarates and maleates; and base addition salts, for example sodium, potassium, magnesium, and calcium salts.

In the compounds of the invention the following are examples of the several structural variables:

R_1 may be, for example, H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy. Currently it is preferred that R_1 is H, F, or Cl;

R_2 may be, for example H, methyl, methoxy, cyclopropyl, phenyl, or fluoro-, chloro-, methyl, or methoxy-substituted phenyl. H is presently preferred;

R_3 may be, for example, H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy. Currently it is preferred that R_3 is H, F, or Cl;

Y may be, for example, -O-, -S-, or $-N(R_5)-$ wherein R_5 represents H or methyl.
-NH- is presently preferred.

X may be, for example a bond, or a $-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2-$ radical. A bond is presently preferred.

R_4 represents $-C(=O)NR_6R_7$, $-NR_7C(=O)R_6$, $-NR_7C(=O)OR_6$ or $-NHC(=O)NHR_6$ and in these

R_6 may be, for example, H or a radical of formula $-Alk_b-Q$ wherein b is 0 or 1 and

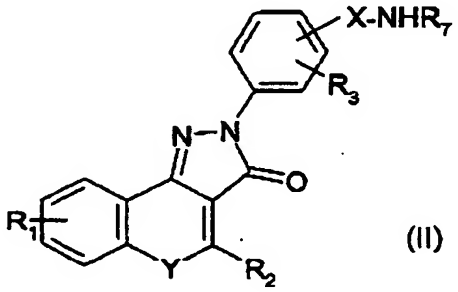
Alk is a $-(CH_2)_n-$, $-CH((CH_2)_mCH_3)(CH_2)_n-$, $-CH((CH_2)_mCH_3)((CH_2)_pCH_3)(CH_2)_n-$, $-(CH_2)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-$, or $-(CH_2)_n-O-(CH_2)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-$, radical where n is 1, 2, 3 or 4 and m and p are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and

Q represents H, -OH, $-COOCH_3$ phenyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, or oxazolyl; and

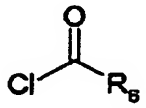
R_7 may be, for example, H, or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 may form a heterocyclic ring of 5, 6 or 7 members.

Specific examples of R_4 groups include those present in the compounds of the Examples herein.

Compounds of the invention may be prepared by synthetic methods known in the literature, from compounds which are commercially available or are accessible from commercially available compounds. For example, compounds of formula (I) wherein R_4 is a group $-NR_7C(=O)R_6$ may be prepared by acylation of an amine of formula (II) with an acid chloride of formula (III):

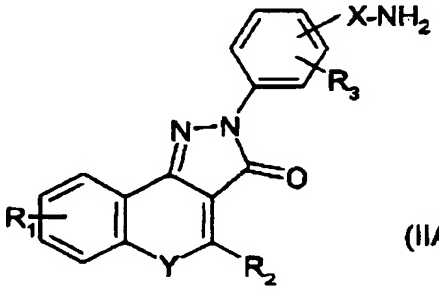


(II)

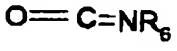


(III)

Compounds of the invention wherein R_4 is a group $-NHC(=O)NHR_6$ may be prepared by reaction of an amine of formula (IIA) with an isocyanate of formula (IIIA)

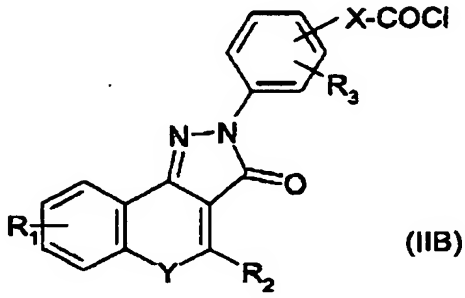


(IIA)



(IIIA)

Compounds of the invention wherein R_4 is a group $-C(=O)NHR_6$ may be prepared by reaction of an acid chloride of formula (IIB) with an amine NH_2R_6:



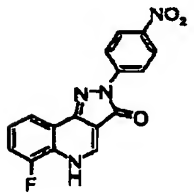
(IIB)

Compounds of the invention wherein R_4 is a group $-NR_7C(=O)OR_6$ may be prepared by reaction of an amine of formula (II) with a chloroformate $ClC(=O)OR_6$.

The following Examples illustrate the preparation of compounds of the invention:

Preparation of Intermediate 1

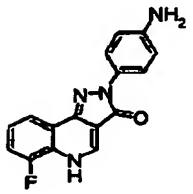
2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-6-fluoro-2,5-dihydropyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-3-one



4-Nitrophenylhydrazine (2.28 g, 0.014 mol) was added in one portion to a stirred solution of 4-chloro-8-fluoro-quinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (3.58 g, 0.014 mol) in anhydrous n-butyl alcohol (50 ml) at room temperature. The mixture was refluxed for 16 h under nitrogen, cooled to room temperature and then filtered to leave an orange solid. The solid was purified by washing sequentially with ethyl acetate (20 ml) and heptane (20 ml) and then finally dried under suction to give the *pyrazolone* (3.93 g, 87 %) as a dark orange solid, LCMS m/z 325.24 $[M+H]^+$ @ R_T 1.47 min.

Preparation of Intermediate 2

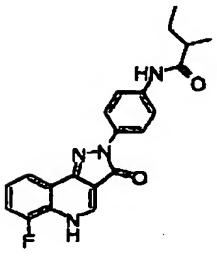
2-(4-Aminophenyl)-6-fluoro-2,5-dihydropyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-3-one



Tin (II) chloride dihydrate (12.5 g, 0.055 mol) was added in one portion to a stirred solution of 2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-6-fluoro-2,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-3-one (intermediate 1) (3.59 g, 0.011 mol) in ethyl alcohol (110 ml) at room temperature. The mixture was then heated to 80 °C for 8 h, cooled to room temperature and filtered to leave a yellow solid. The solid was suspended in a biphasic solution of ethyl acetate (1L), a saturated solution of Rochelles salt (500 ml) and a saturated solution of sodium bicarbonate (500 ml) and stirred at room temperature for 2h. The mixture was filtered and the remaining solid was washed with water and dried under vacuum to afford the title compound (3.39 g, 99 %) as a bright yellow solid, LCMS m/z 295.30 $[M+H]^+$ @ R_T 0.84 min.

Example 1

N-[4-(6-Fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydropyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-phenyl]-2-methyl-butyramide



(±)-2-Methylbutyryl chloride (13.6 µl, 0.11 mmol) was added dropwise over 30 sec to a stirred solution of 2-(4-amino-phenyl)-6-fluoro-2,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-

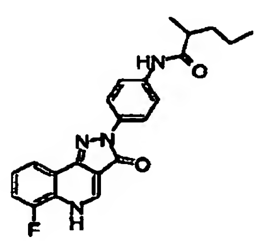
c]quinolin-3-one (Intermediate 2) (30 mg, 0.10 mmol), triethylamine (14 µl, 0.11 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (2.4 mg, 0.02 mmol) in dichloromethane (1 ml) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The yellow solid was then filtered and purified by washing sequentially with a saturated solution of sodium bicarbonate (1 ml), ethyl acetate (1 ml) and ethyl alcohol (0.5 ml) and finally dried under suction to give the title compound (10 mg, 26 %) as a bright yellow solid, LCMS m/z 379.36 $[M+H]^+$ @ R_T 1.18 min. δ_H(400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) 9.89 (1H, s), 8.52 (1H, s), 8.15 (2H, d *J* 9.0 Hz), 8.01 (1H, d *J* 7.0 Hz), 7.69 (2H, d *J* 9.0 Hz) 7.57-7.46 (2H, m), 2.46-2.39 (1H, m), 1.69-1.36 (2H, m), 1.11 (3H, d *J* 6.8 Hz), 0.91(3H, t *J* 7.3 Hz).

Examples 2-28

The following compounds were synthesized by the route described in Example 1, substituting the appropriate acid chloride for (±)-2-methylbutyryl chloride:

Example 2

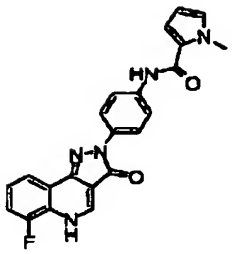
2-Methyl-pentanoic acid [4-(6-fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-phenyl]-amide



δ_H(400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) 9.92 (1H, s), 8.53 (1H, s), 8.12 (2H, d *J* 9.2 Hz), 8.05 (1H, d *J* 7.6 Hz), 7.70 (2H, d *J* 9.2 Hz), 7.63-7.53 2H, m), 1.68-1.58 (1H, m), 1.38-1.28 (3H, m), 1.11 (3H, d *J* 6.6 Hz), 0.91 (3H, t *J* 7.1 Hz).

Example 3

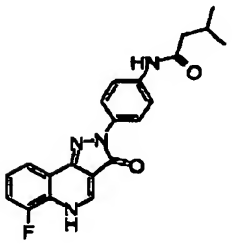
1-Methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylic acid [4-(6-fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-phenyl]-amide



δ_H(400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) 9.76 (1H, s), 8.50 (1H, s), 8.26 (2H, d 9.0 Hz), 7.97-7.94 (1H, m), 7.73 (2H, d *J* 9.0 Hz), 7.39-7.28 (2H, m), 7.07-7.01 (2H, m), 3.91 (3H, s).

Example 4

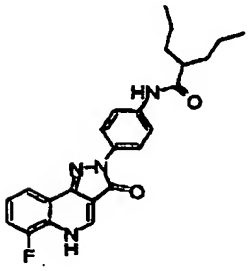
N-[4-(6-Fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-phenyl]-3-methyl-butyramide



δ_H(400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) 9.92 (1H, s), 8.52 (1H, s), 8.14 (2H, d *J* 9.2 Hz), 8.01 (1H, d *J* 7.3 Hz), 7.67 (2H, d *J* 9.2 Hz), 7.57-7.47 (2H, m), 2.21 (2H, d *J* 6.8 Hz), 2.14-2.07 (1H, m), 0.96 (6H, d *J* 6.6 Hz).

Example 5

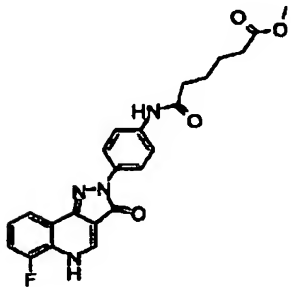
2-Propyl-pentanoic acid [4-(6-fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-phenyl]-amide



δ_H(400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) 9.93 (1H, s), 8.53 (1H, s), 8.11 (2H, d *J* 9.0 Hz), 8.05 (1H, d *J* 7.8 Hz), 7.70 (2H, d *J* 9.0 Hz), 7.59-7.46 (2H, m), 2.46-2.35 (1H, m), 1.63-1.27 (4H, m), 0.90(6H, t *J* 7.1 Hz).

Example 6

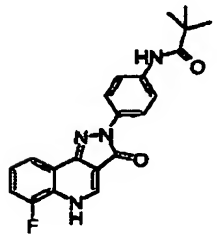
5-[4-(6-Fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl) phenylcarbamoyl]-pentanoic acid methyl ester



δ_H(400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) 9.85 (1H, s), 8.47 (1H, s), 8.25 (2H, d *J* 9.0 Hz), 7.91-7.90 (1H, m), 7.59 (2H, d *J* 9.0 Hz), 7.29-7.20 (2H, m), 3.61 (3H, s), 2.38-2.28 (4H, m), 1.64-1.50 (4H, m).

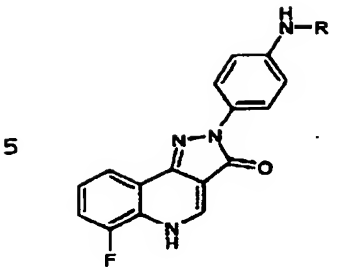
Example 7

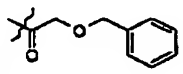
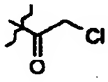
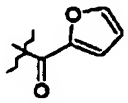
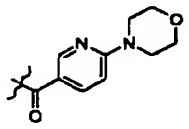
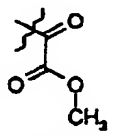
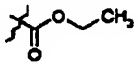
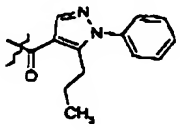
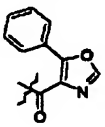
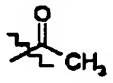
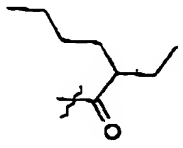
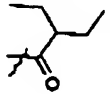
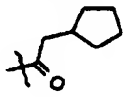
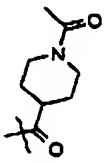
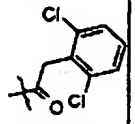
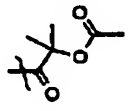
N-[4-(6-Fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-phenyl]-2,2-dimethyl-propionamide

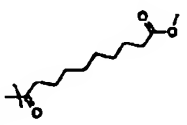
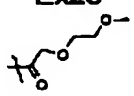
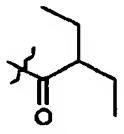
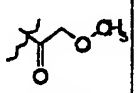
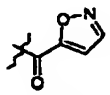


δ_H(400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) 9.26 (1H, s), 8.52 (1H, s), 8.15 (2H, d *J* 9.2 Hz), 8.03 (1H, d *J* 8.8 Hz), 7.71 (2H, d *J* 9.2 Hz), 7.56-7.47 (2H, m), 1.26 (9H, s).

Examples 8 to 28 were also prepared by the method of Example 1 using the appropriate acid chloride:

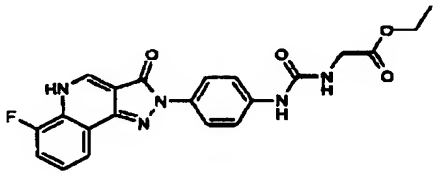


R	m/z $[M+H]^+$	LC min	R	m/z $[M+H]^+$	LC min	R	m/z $[M+H]^+$	LC min
Ex8 	443.43	1.31	Ex9 	371.31	1.09	Ex10 	389.34	1.12
 Ex11	485.45	0.98	 Ex12	381.34	1.08	Ex13 	367.18	1.15
 Ex14	507.43	1.41	Ex15 	466.41	1.43	Ex16 	337.36	0.98
 Ex17	421.46	1.41	Ex18 	393.41	1.24	Ex19 	405.41	1.28
 Ex20	448.44	0.96	 Ex21	481.35	1.35	Ex22 	423.42	1.11

Ex23 	493.51	1.37	 Ex24	365.36	1.09	Ex25 	411.40	1.05
 Ex 26	393.46	1.11	 Ex27	367.24	1.04	 28	390.33	1.09

Example 29

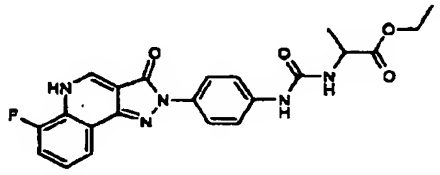
{3-[4-(6-Fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-phenyl]-ureido} acetic acid ethyl ester



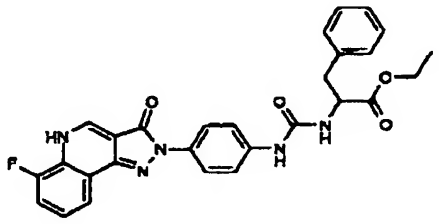
Ethyl cyanatoacetate (31 mg, 0.24 mmol) was added in one portion to a stirred solution of 2-(4-aminophenyl)-6-fluoro-2,5-dihydropyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-3-one (intermediate 2) (50 mg, 0.17 mmol) in *N*, *N*-dimethylformamide (2 ml) and the mixture stirred at room temperature for 16 h. Water (1 ml) was then added to the mixture to precipitate a solid, which was filtered, washed with water (1 ml) and then ethyl acetate (1 ml) and finally dried by suction to leave the urea as a yellow solid, LCMS m/z 424.40 $[M+H]^+$ @ R_T 1.06 min.

Examples 30 and 31

The following compounds were synthesised by the method of Example 29, substituting the appropriate isocyanate for ethyl cyanatoacetate.



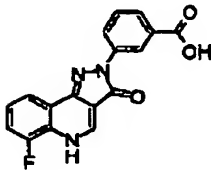
Example 30
LCMS m/z 438.41 $[M+H]^+$ @ RT 1.13 min.



Example 31
LCMS m/z 514.46 $[M+H]^+$ @ RT 1.35 min

Preparation of Intermediate 3

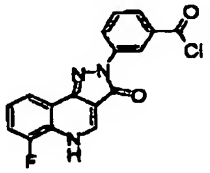
3-(6-Fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-benzoic acid



3-Hydrazinobenzoic acid (1.91 g, 0.013 mol) was added in one portion to a stirred solution of 4-chloro-8-fluoro-quinoline-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (2.93 g, 0.011 mol) in n-butanol (60 ml) at room temperature. The solution was heated to reflux for 16 h, cooled to room temperature and the resulting yellow solid filtered, washed with *tert*-butyl methyl ether and then dried. The solid was redissolved in a solution of tetrahydrofuran : water (2:1; 21 ml) and lithium hydroxide (1.27 g, 0.031 mol) was then added. After stirring at room temperature for 16 h, concentrated hydrochloric acid (3 ml) was added dropwise to the mixture to precipitate a yellow solid which was filtered and dried under vacuum to give the title compound (intermediate 3) (2.32 g, 63 %) as a bright yellow solid.

Preparation of Intermediate 4

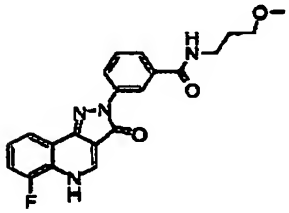
3-(6-Fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-benzoyl chloride



Oxalyl chloride (20 ml, 0.2 mol) was added dropwise over 2 min to a stirred solution of 3-(6-fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-benzoic acid (intermediate 3) (2.0 g, 6.1 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 ml) at room temperature. *N,N*-Dimethylformamide (50µl) was then added and the resulting mixture heated to 50 °C for 1 h. The solution was then cooled to room temperature and then concentrated *in vacuo* to leave the title compound (intermediate 4) (2.0 g, 96 %) as a beige solid.

Example 32

3-(6-Fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-N-(3-methoxy-propyl)-benzamide

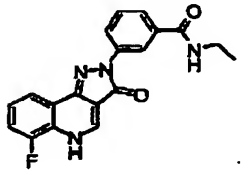


3-Methoxypropylamine (0.026g, 0.29mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 3-(6-fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-benzoyl chloride (intermediate 4) (26 mg 0.29mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (2 ml) and the mixture stirred at room temperature for 15 min. Triethylamine (0.2 ml, 1.4 mmol) was then added and the resulting mixture stirred overnight. 1M Hydrochloric acid (3-4 ml) was added dropwise to precipitate a yellow solid which was filtered and dried under suction to give the *amide* (79 mg, 0.20 mmol) as a yellow solid, LCMS m/z 395.25 $[M+H]^+$ @ R_T 1.04 min; δ_H(400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) 8.59

(1H, m), 8.57 (1H, s), 8.39 (1H, app d *J* 9.3 Hz), 8.08 (1H, app d *J* 7.3 Hz), 7.66-7.53 (5H, m), 3.37-3.33 (4H, m), 3.27 (3H, s), 1.83-1.77 (2H, m).

Example 33

N-Ethyl-3-(6-fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-benzamide

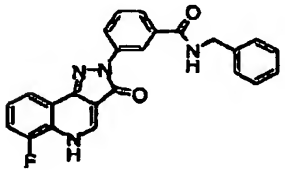


Prepared by the method of Example 32 substituting ethylamine for 3-methoxypropylamine.

δ_H(400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) major rotomer quoted; 8.56 (1H, br s), 8.47 (1H, m), 8.21 (2H, d *J* 8.5 Hz), 7.94 (2H, d *J* 8.5 Hz), 3.96 (3H, s), 3.31 (2H, q *J* 7.3 Hz), 2.58 (3H, s), 1.15 (3H, t *J* 7.4 Hz).

Example 34

N-Benzyl-3-(6-fluoro-3-oxo-3,5-dihydro-pyrazolo[4,3-c]quinolin-2-yl)-benzamide



Prepared by the method of Example 32 substituting benzylamine for 3-methoxypropylamine.

LCMS m/z 427.16 $[M+H]^+$ @ R_T 1.28 min.

Biological Example

The examples described above were tested in a cell free Homogenous Time Resolved Fluorescence (HTRF) assay to determine their activity as inhibitors of the CD80-CD28 interaction.

In the assay, europium and allophycocyanin (APC) are associated with CD28 and CD80 indirectly (through antibody linkers) to form a complex, which brings the europium and APC into close proximity to generate a

signal. The complex comprises the following six proteins: fluorescent label 1, linker antibody 1, CD28 fusion protein, CD80 fusion protein, linker antibody 2, and fluorescent label 2. The table below describes these reagents in greater detail.

Fluorescent label 1	Anti-Rabbit IgG labelled with Europium (1μg/ml)
Linker antibody 1	Rabbit IgG specific for mouse Fc fragment (3μg/ml)
CD28 fusion protein	CD28 - mouse Fc fragment fusion protein (0.48μg/ml)
CD80 fusion protein	CD80 mouse Fab fragment (C215) fusion protein (1.9μg/ml)
Linker antibody 2	GαMκ-biotin: biotinylated goat IgG specific for mouse kappa chain (2μg/ml)
Fluorescent label 2	SA-APC: streptavidin labelled allophycocyanin (8μg/ml)

On formation of the complex, europium and APC are brought into proximity and a signal is generated.

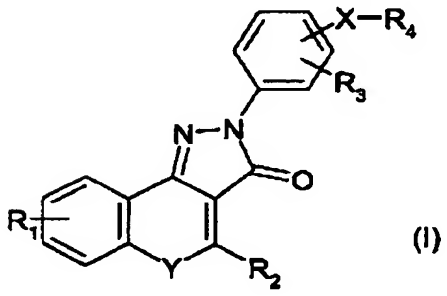
Non-specific interaction was measured by substituting a mouse Fab fragment (C215) for the CD80 mouse Fab fragment fusion protein (1.9μg/ml). The assay was carried out in black 384 well plates in a final volume of 30μl. Assay buffer: 50mM Tris-HCl, 150mM NaCl pH7.8, containing 0.1% BSA (w/v) added just prior to use.

Compounds were added to the above reagents in a concentration series ranging between 100μM - 1.7nM. The reaction was incubated for 4 hours at room temperature. Dual measurements were made using a Wallac Victor 1420 Multilabel Counter. First measurement: excitation 340nm, emission 665nm, delay 50μs, window time 200μs. second measurement: excitation 340nm, emission 615nm, delay 50μs, window time 200μs. Counts were automatically corrected for fluorescence crossover, quenching and background.

By way of illustration, the EC_{50} results for the compounds of Examples 15, 21 and 29 were 8 □M, 1.9 □M and 950 nM respectively.

CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

wherein

R_1 and R_3 independently represent H; F; Cl; Br; $-NO_2$; $-CN$; C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted by F or Cl; or C_1-C_6 alkoxy optionally substituted by F;

R_2 represents H, or optionally substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or optionally substituted phenyl;

Y represents -O-, -S-, N-oxide, or $-N(R_5)-$ wherein R_5 represents H or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

X represents a bond or a divalent C_1-C_6 alkylene radical;

R_4 represents $-C(=O)NR_6R_7$, $-NR_7C(=O)R_6$, $-NR_7C(=O)OR_6$, $-NHC(=O)NHR_6$ or $-NHC(=S)NHR_6$ wherein

R_6 represents H, or a radical of formula $-(Alk)_b-Q$ wherein b is 0 or 1 and

Alk is an optionally substituted divalent straight chain or branched C_1-C_{12} alkylene radical which may be interrupted by one or more non-adjacent -O-, -S- or $-N(R_8)-$ radicals wherein R_8 represents H or C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_3-C_4 alkenyl, C_3-C_4 alkynyl, or C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, and

Q represents H; $-CF_3$; -OH; -SH; $-NR_8R_8$ wherein each R_8 may be the same or different; an ester group; or an optionally substituted phenyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, C_5-C_7 cycloalkenyl or monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms; and

R_7 represents H or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or when taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a monocyclic heterocyclic ring having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_1 is H, F, Cl, methyl or methoxy.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R_2 is H, methyl, methoxy, cyclopropyl, phenyl, or fluoro-, chloro-, methyl, or methoxy-substituted phenyl.

4. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_3 is H, F, Cl, methyl, methoxy, or methylenedioxy.

5. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein Y is -O-, -S-, or $-N(R_5)-$ wherein R_5 represents H or methyl.

6. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein X is a bond, or a $-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2-$ radical.

7. A compound as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_4 represents $-C(=O)NHR_6$, $-NR_7C(=O)R_6$, $-NR_7C(=O)OR_6$, $-NHC(=O)NHR_6$ or $-NHC(=S)NHR_6$ and in these R_6 is H or a radical of formula $-Alk_b-Q$ wherein

b is 0 or 1 and

Alk is a $-(CH_2)_n-$, $-CH((CH_2)_mCH_3)(CH_2)_n-$, $-CH((CH_2)_mCH_3)((CH_2)_pCH_3)(CH_2)_n-$, $-(CH_2)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-$, or $-(CH_2)_n-O-(CH_2)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-$, radical where n is 1, 2, 3 or 4 and m and p are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and Q represents H, -OH, $-COOCH_3$ phenyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, or oxazolyl. and

R_7 is H, or when taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a pyrrolidine-2-one or pyrrolidine-2,5-dione ring.

8. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_1 is H, F, or Cl; R_2 is H; R_3 is H, F, or Cl; Y is-NH-; X is a bond; and R_4 represents $-C(=O)NHR_6$, $-NR_7C(=O)R_6$, $-NR_7C(=O)OR_6$ or $-NHC(=O)NHR_6$ wherein:

R_6 is H or a radical of formula $-Alk_b-Q$ wherein b is 0 or 1 and

Alk is a $-(CH_2)_n-$, $-CH((CH_2)_mCH_3)(CH_2)_n-$, $-CH((CH_2)_mCH_3)((CH_2)_pCH_3)(CH_2)_n-$, $-(CH_2)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-$, or $-(CH_2)_n-O-(CH_2)_n-O-(CH_2)_m-$, radical where n is 1, 2, 3 or 4 and m and p are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and Q represents H, -OH, $-COOCH_3$ phenyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, or oxazolyl. and

R_7 is H, or when taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached R_6 and R_7 form a pyrrolidine-2-one or pyrrolidine-2,5-dione ring.

9. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 for use in the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation.

10. The use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of conditions which benefit from immunomodulation.

11. A method of immunomodulation in mammals, including humans, comprising administration to a mammal in need of such treatment an immunomodulatory effective dose of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8.

12. A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable excipient or carrier.

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to novel heterocyclic compounds, to methods for their preparation, to compositions containing them, and to methods and use for clinical treatment of medical conditions which may benefit from immunomodulation, including rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, asthma, transplantation, systemic lupus erythematosis and psoriasis. More particularly the present invention relates to novel heterocyclic compounds, which are CD80 antagonists capable of inhibiting the interactions between CD80 and CD28.